

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office action mailed October 7, 2003 is respectfully requested. Claims 3, 5-6, 10, 19, 21 and 22 are now pending in the application. Claims 2, 7-9, 11-16, 18 and 20 were previously cancelled, and claims 1, 4 and 17 are cancelled with this amendment.

I. Amendments

Claims 1 and 17 are cancelled to expedite allowance of the remaining claims. Applicants retain the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in a continuing application.

In view of the cancellation of claims 1 and 17, claims 6 and 22 have been redrafted in independent form, and claims 3, 5 and 10 are amended to depend from claim 6.

No new matter is added by any of the amendments.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The subject matter of claims 6, 19 and 22 was deemed allowable (page 6 of Office Action).

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1, 3-5, 17 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1, 4 and 17 and the amendment of the remaining claims to depend from allowable claim 6. Applicants retain the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in a continuing application.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitani *et al.* (*Br. J. of Haematology* 90:117, 1995) in view of Baracchini *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,801,154).

This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 17. Applicants retain the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in a continuing application.

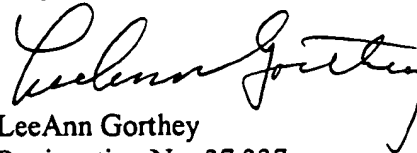
V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the applicant submits that the claims now pending are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 838-4403.

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Respectfully submitted,



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